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Issue No. 152
November 2017

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Editor's Comment



THERE may be one or two people who disagree, but we think the ongoing row over the legality of Frodsham's Annual Town Meeting this year can best be described as a storm in a teacup.

Strictly speaking, apparently, it was "illegal" because it was held outside the approved timescale.

But this has been the case for a number of years – going back so far, in fact, to a time when most of the current councillors were not even members of the council.

It is not clear who, if anyone, realised over the years that the meeting was not being held in compliance with the regulations.

But what is clear is that the timing of the meeting was fixed for the best of reasons – to try and persuade more members of the public to attend.

The council was not always successful in this – indeed it seldom was. The only times the meeting was well attended was when there was some controversial issue on the agenda and at times like that the timing is largely irrelevant.

So, yes, the Town Council has on occasions held "illegal" Annual Town Meetings. But it did so for the best of reasons. And we have no doubt that numerous other Town and Parish Councils across the country have done the same.

Indeed, there are places where the Annual Town (for Parish) Meeting has not been held at all some years.

We suggested a long time ago that Frodsham should follow the lead of those councils which hold their annual meeting on the same night as the normal council meeting, allowing, say, an hour for the annual meeting before the council meeting starts. So we are pleased to be able to report that this is exactly what the Town Council is planning on doing.

If there is a large attendance at the Annual Town Meeting there is always the chance some members of the public will stay on to listen to the council meeting – surely something to be encouraged?

Conservative by-election victory

ALAN Wordsworth has been elected as a new member of Frodsham Town Council representing the Overton and Five Crosses ward.

He polled 182 votes for the Conservative Party in a straight fight with Ross Sibson, No Party, who polled 94 votes.

There was a 12.5 per cent turnout.

The by-election was caused by the resignation of former councillor Ginny Kirk.

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New Year's Eve fireworks to be moved to safer site

FRODSHAM'S New Year's Eve firework display is to be moved to a safer site.

The fireworks will be set off from Marshlands - the same site used for the annual Christmas Festival parade display. The same company

used for the Christmas parade will be used, as they are familiar with the site.

The decision by the Town

Council's new Events Committee, follows an incident caused by a faulty firework at last year's New Year's Eve display.

Cllr Mallie Poulton, chairman of the new committee said: "After careful consideration the Events Committee has decided to move the New Year's Eve firework display to a safer site.

"The display will be fired by the same company that fires the Christmas parade fireworks. They are very familiar with the site and likely conditions.

"There will be an eight minute aerial display starting at 7.10pm.

"The display will be visible from many vantage points around the town, such as Churchfields, the play areas, the Rock and the pubs around town."

There will be no public access to Marshlands.

In recent years the display has been held on Churchfields, following the church service.

There will be a review of the display by the Events Committee in the New Year.

The future of the New Year's Eve display had seemed in doubt following the last meeting of the full council when it had been agreed to refer the matter to the Events Committee. A number of options were, at that time, to be considered, including one of not having a display at all.

*Meanwhile the annual firework display and bonfire organised by Frodsham and district Round Table at the Community Centre will be on Saturday, November 4, starting at 7pm (gates open from 6.30pm).

There will be hot food and drinks, teas and coffee and novelties

Junior Mayors installed

FRODSHAM's new Junior Mayors have been installed in office at a ceremony before a meeting of Frodsham Town Council.

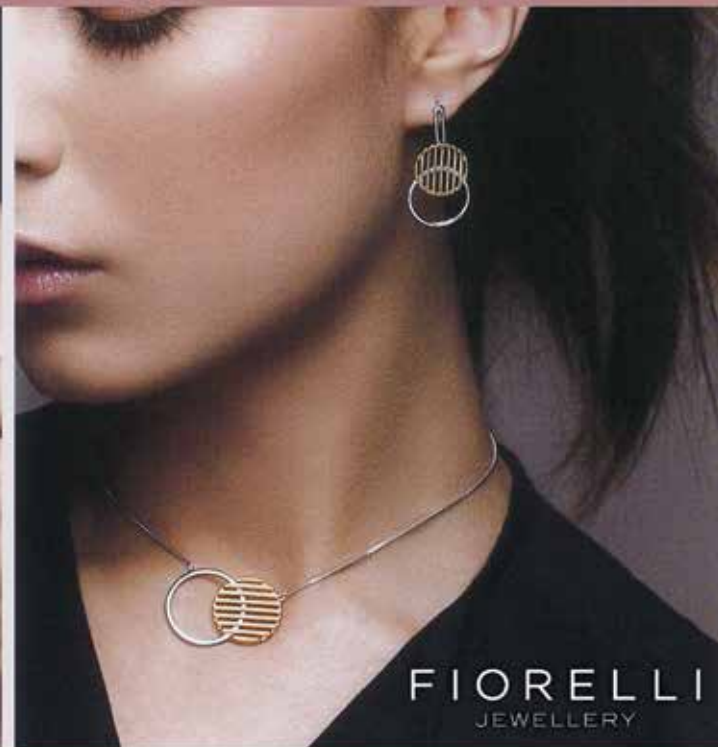
The investiture of Katy Thompson and Michael Morgan-Astle, pupils at Weaver Vale Primary School, was carried out by the Mayor, Cllr Alan Oulton.

He also thanked retiring Junior Mayors Lily Nicholson and Jack Dewhurst, of Frodsham CE Primary School, for the dedication they had shown in their work for Frodsham during the last 12 months.

Frodsham has been widely praised for introducing its Junior Mayor programme, now in its third year.



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Players present classic comedy

THERE will be plenty of laughter in store when Frodsham Players's present J B Priestley's classic comedy "When we are Married".

Written in 1938, this delightful comedy is set in the heart of Northern England and features three respectable couples who

were all married on the same day, at the same church, and by the same vicar.

They meet to celebrate 25 years

of blissful matrimony. Or so they think... the happy celebrations are brought to a sudden halt by a shocking revelation – these pillars of the community aren't quite as respectably married as they thought they were.

As the home truths fly like confetti and conjugal rites turn to farcical fights, an evening of sparkling comic mayhem erupts.

With a photographer from the local paper due to arrive any second, a missing housekeeper and a doorbell that won't stop

ringing, can the three couples keep a lid on their embarrassing secret? It is a classic comedy that is a blessed union of laughs and surprises.

"When we are Married" will be performed at Frodsham Community Centre, Fluin Lane, from Wednesday, November 29 to Saturday December 2.

Tickets, priced £9, are on sale from www.frodshamplayers.com, Dandelion, Church Street, Frodsham or by calling 07754 455809

Where to spend your Christmas Gift Voucher

Frodsham Town Council's popular Christmas Gift Voucher scheme for older residents is running again this year.

Recipients can spend their £10 voucher on a Christmas treat at a wide variety of local shops and traders. Or, if they prefer, they can pass their voucher to a local club or society. Altogether there are 33 outlets accepting the vouchers

Whichever way recipients use their vouchers, they will be supporting the local community. The Town Council encourages people to shop locally, and this scheme will inject around £10,000 into our local high street.

Any resident of Frodsham aged 70 or over can still apply for a voucher, but time is running short as the closing date for applications is Friday November 3. Forms are available from FTC's office in Castle Park, local post offices and www.frodsham.gov.uk.

The list of participating shops and other organisations is: Shops: Alan Pickup Butchers, Church St; Brew + Tucker, Church St; Celebrations,

Church St; The Cottage Teashop, Main St; Dandelion Gifts, Church St; Devonshire Bakery, High St; DRB Jewellers, Church St; Elliotts Newsagents, Main St; Frodsham Coffee Shop, Main St; Frodsham Flowers, Main St; Frodsham Post Office, Main St; Gates Garage, Bridge Lane; H E Coward Butchers, Main Street; Hales Fruits, Church St; Halton Haven Hospice Shop, Main St; Home and Beauty, Church St; Les Harris Jewellers, Main St; Mayland Art, Church St; Millmark Foods, Main St; Overton Village Store; Paws & Claws, Frodsham Railway Station; Peers Hairdressing, Main St; Ring 'O Bells, Bellemonte Rd; Robert Gleave & Sons, Mill Lane; St Hilda's Drive Post Office; St Laurence Parish Church; The Craftbox, Church St; Top Marks, Langdale Way; Top Shop, Langdale Way.

Other organisations: 4th Frodsham Scout Group; Frodsham Community Association; Frodsham & District Stroke Club; Will to Work Workshop.



Competition to decorate bus shelters

A WORKING group has been set up at Frodsham to consider a competition to "decorate" bus shelters in the town.

The group has been established by local resident Pauline Scott with support from Frodsham Town Council, Cheshire West and Chester Council and local PCSO Neil Flanagan.

Cllr Tom Reynolds has agreed to represent the Town Council on the working group.

He said: "I think it is a brilliant idea. It could give the town a bit of verve."

Mrs Scott got the idea after seeing a decorated bus shelter on

display at the RHS Tatton Flower Show this year.

Interested groups could decorate bus shelters around the area and compete for a cash prize. The winning shelter would be voted on by residents or a chosen panel.

The decorations would have to be temporary, allow the bus shelter to remain operational, must not damage the shelter and must have regard to health and safety issues.

Mrs Scott said she had received a lot of support and interest from local residents.

It is hoped to arrange a first meeting of the working group early in October.



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Councillors want sale of police station to benefit town



COUNCILLORS at Frodsham would like to see the proceeds of any sale of the town's police station invested in Frodsham.

Cllr Mallie Poulton told a meeting of the Town Council he would like to see the proceeds of any disposal returned to Frodsham – possibly to finance CCTV cameras.

He was commenting after the council had received a presentation from Chief Inspector Michael Evans of the Chester Police local policing unit on proposals to close the police station and relocate it in the nearby Frodsham Fire Station.

Chief Inspector Evans said the police had carried out a widespread consultation with local people about the proposals.

It was considered the fire station would be suitable for a joint police and fire station which would also offer PCSOs to book on and off their shifts, saving them a journey to Blacon police station.

There would be no change to

the service currently offered and any proceeds from the disposal of the former police station would be reinvested in future police estates proposals across Cheshire.

Cllr Poulton said he understood Frodsham could not expect to receive all the proceeds of the disposal, but he would like to see the town receive some benefit – such as CCTV cameras.

He praised the police for the way they had consulted the public in Frodsham.

The Mayor, Cllr Alan Oulton – a former fire officer – said police and fire services sharing a facility was a good idea.

He had previous experience of such an arrangement and it had worked well, with officers from both services co-operating well.



Silent auction

A "SILENT Auction" is to be held at Frodsham Community Centre on Tuesday, Nov 7, to raise money for Frodsham Community Association.

Those taking part will be able to take time to study the lots, and place their bids in writing before the hammer falls.

Admission is £6, including a glass of wine.

But "lots" are needed, and organisations which use the centre are being asked to donate items, "old or new, quirky or not, sublime or ridiculous" to be included in the auction.

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Stephen Lawson

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Question:

What is meant by the phrase Fraudulent Calumny?

Answer:

Fraudulent Calumny is not a phrase that is used by most people every day of the week. It is a rather unusual description of the ground upon which a Will can be regarded as invalid.

Fraudulent Calumny arises where a person is said to have been poisoning the mind of a person who is making a Will either by telling that person various facts that are untrue – or telling those facts not caring whether they were true or false.

A good illustration of this might be if a 'friend' tells someone who is thinking of making a Will – "don't leave anything to your daughter, she just wants to see you put in a care home so she can get your money quicker".

If that statement was false and the person making the Will did indeed remove his daughter as a beneficiary then the Will could be set aside and have no validity – even if, in all other respects the Will would have been valid – for example if it was properly signed and witnessed and if the person making the Will had full testamentary capacity.

Many lawyers have dusted off their old text books recently to get up to date with fraudulent calumny, because there have been a couple of recent cases; Eric Arthur Boyles and Agni Lacouvou, were decided on precisely these grounds.

Perhaps sadly we find that allegations of fraudulent calumny are becoming more common and in our professional view it is essential to get early specialist legal advice to ensure that your position is best protected.

For more information about Will Disputes, contact Stephen Lawson at FDR Law on 01925 230000 or email: Stephen.lawson@fdrlaw.co.uk

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Land of Beds announces BBC Children in Need pledge

A FRODSHAM-based retailer will donate to BBC Children in Need on behalf of every customer who places an order in store during November.

Land of Beds, Britain's 'Retail Family Business of the Year', is proud to announce this special promotion, which will run throughout November.

"We share BBC Children in Need's vision that every child in the UK should feel safe, happy and secure, as well as being allowed the chance to reach their true potential," says Land of Beds' Managing Director and father-of-two Mike Murray.

"The appeal's call to action is to 'Do Your Thing', and helping people of all ages – including children – to sleep well is what we do best! That's why we've decided to make a BBC Children in Need donation on behalf of any customer who purchases a bed or mattress from us in store at 14 Church Street in Frodsham or 98 Chester Road in Helsby during November.

'Also, there will be designated donation collection points in both stores for anyone who wishes to call in and make a contribution to this worthy cause.'

Funds raised during the annual national appeal will provide grants to UK projects which focus on children and young people who are disadvantaged.

"At a local level, we are proud to have donated book vouchers

to all of our local primary schools earlier this year, and to have raised more than £1,000 for Claire House Children's Hospice by entering a team into 'Tough Mudder'," adds

Mike.

"Families and family values are at the heart of our business, which has successfully traded for three generations; I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all Frodsham Life readers for their continuing support in our fundraising ventures."

The BBC Children in Need Appeal Show airs at 7.30pm on Friday, 17 November on BBC One; it will be presented by Mel Giedroyc, who will be joined by Graham Norton, Tess Daly, Ade Adepitan, Rochelle Humes and Marvin Humes.



Tempers flared over 'illegal' town meeting

TEMPERS flared at a meeting of Frodsham Town Council when claims were made that this year's Annual Town Meeting had been "illegal."

Outspoken Cllr Tom Reynolds claimed the meeting had been "utterly disgraceful" and that councillors had been misled because it had been known since March that the meeting would not be in compliance with the Local Government Act (LGA).

But father of the council Cllr Frank Pennington launched a verbal attack on Cllr Reynolds.

He told him: "Ever since you were elected to this council, you have done nothing for Frodsham."

"You have done nothing but cause trouble and I am fed up of it. You have not done one thing for the people of Frodsham."

Cllr Reynolds protested: "When I have tried to do something you have not let me. You have ganged

up on me."

The row flared when the council was discussing a report on the Annual Town Meeting (ATM), held on July 1. The document conceded that for a number of years, the ATM had not been in compliance with the LGA, which stipulated that it should be held annually between March 1 and June 1 and should not start earlier than 6pm.

In Frodsham, it had usually been held on a Saturday afternoon, to improve attendance and encourage community participation.

After last year's ATM it was decided to make changes this year – continuing with a Saturday afternoon but selecting a date likely to improve attendance and moving the meeting to a more central location – the Parish Hall.

Setting the date proved difficult because of the availability of the end-of-year accounts and annual report, two bank holidays in May and availability of the Parish Hall. The General Election called on June 8 further complicated matters.

Mindful of the dates set in the LGA, the chairman, Cllr Judith Critchley and Town Clerk, Mrs Hazel Catt, sought the advice of the Cheshire Association of Local Councils (CHALC) and were told there were no sanctions for missing the dates and that other councils held their ATMs to meet local needs.

As Frodsham had not complied with the LGA for a number of years, it was not considered an issue to call the meeting on July 1 – the first

available date for the Parish Hall.

The date and time of the ATM was endorsed by the full council.

A House of Commons Briefing Paper dated in 2015 stated that the obligation to hold the meeting between March 1 and June 1 could, in practice, be disregarded and there were few sanctions available if the meeting was not held.

The report added that all councillors had an opportunity to object to the proposed arrangements and that, at the ATM itself, residents voted overwhelmingly to continue with the meeting.

But one resident, Mrs Pauline Scott, told the council she had been "outraged" by what had happened and thought the review that had been carried out was "nothing short of buck-passing."

The Town Clerk and the chairman had known for more than three months that the meeting did not comply with the regulations and the fact that it had not complied in previous years was irrelevant.

People had been kept in the dark and it made her wonder what other matters were decided behind closed doors.

"This is not what I expect from my council," she added.

Several councillors denied being misled over the issue and indicated they had full confidence in the Town Clerk and chairman. The council's aim had been to encourage greater attendance and participation by the public.

Mayor Cllr Alan Oulton, said:

"We took the advice of CHALC – who else could we go to?"

The matter was referred to the council's new Events Committee who later decided that the next ATM should be held on Monday, March 26 at 6.30pm in the Parish Hall, with the normal meeting of the Town Council to be held afterwards at 7.30pm.

It was also agreed that in future, the ATM should be held between March 1 and June 1 each year, after 6pm. Additional Town Meetings could be called if necessary.

Next year it is planned to hold another Town Meeting during the "Period for the Exercise of Public Rights" to examine the accounts, usually available between June and August.

A definite date will be set once the External Auditor confirms the period. Other organisations such as Cheshire West & Chester Council and the Police will be invited to attend.



Cllr Tom Reynolds



Cllr Frank Pennington

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Bingo full house raises £2000 for stroke club

Report and pictures: Lynda Haney

A fantastic £2000.00 was raised for the Frodsham & District Stroke Club at a charity bingo evening held in the Community Centre recently.

The event was organised by Club President Jean Johnson and run by Jean, club chairman Ken Shaw and their amazing volunteers including bingo caller Tommy Hughes.

More than 100 people were 'eyes down' playing for a huge array of prizes that had been donated mainly by local businesses and individuals.

Amongst the people playing, who were from Frodsham, Helsby and the surrounding areas, were Andrew, Sandra and Alison who had come over from Bury to support

the club.

Frodsham resident Valerie Buckley found a winning streak early on calling first for a line and then a full house.

The money raised will go towards the purchase of disability aids that will be made available for short term loan to residents of Frodsham and surrounding areas.

Jean and Ken would like to thank everyone for their kind donations without which they would not be able to raise money for such a worthy Frodsham charity.



Winter Wonderland is back!

MANCHESTER'S biggest Indoor Christmas attraction, the award-winning Winter Wonderland Manchester is back for 2017!

The magic of Christmas will take over EventCity next to the Intu Trafford Centre from Saturday 9th December 2017 to Monday 1st January 2018.

Legendary children's TV show, Rainbow will be the star attraction of this year's Christmas extravaganza, plus over 50 family rides and attractions all under one roof - including new rides for 2017, and all included in one ticket price.

As well as the rides and the bright lights, there will be a

dazzling array of colourful shows which this year includes Zippy and George from Rainbow who will no doubt bring lots of magic, mayhem and comedy capers!

The spectacular Christmas Circus also makes a welcome return delivering the finest collection of circus acts that will leave everyone marvelled and amazed with daily performances.

Of course, Christmas wouldn't be Christmas without a visit from Santa Claus complete with real reindeers, who will be taking time out of his busy schedule for meet and greets with all the children, every day up to and including Christmas

Eve. Fairies and Elves will also fly around to play and chat and have 'selfies' with the children.

There will also be a whole host of games stalls and a vast array of food and drinks stalls to purchase refreshments including hot snacks and sweet treats.

Winter Wonderland operates on a session basis to ensure visitors can enjoy the experience without overcrowding offering families four hours of non-stop fun and entertainment.

Group, family and individual tickets are on sale now for the magical festive family adventure which is guaranteed to create that

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Castle Park Arts Centre Frodsham

Opening Night Annual Open Art Exhibition
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Town Council to oppose fracking until convinced it is safe

FRODSHAM Town Council will object to any shale gas fracking on land within its jurisdiction until it is convinced of the safety of the process.

The decision was made following a presentation to the council by Michael Garvey, of Frack Free Frodsham and Helsby (FFFH).

Afterwards, FFFH, in a statement, welcomed the decision.

A spokesperson for the group said: "We are very pleased

with the outcome of this vote; it demonstrates that councillors are finally listening to the people they represent.

"By making this declaration councillors have joined a growing number of councils that recognise the risks associated with the extraction of Unconventional Gas.

"It is time for other councils to act, not least due to the submission of a planning application for an exploratory well at Ellesmere Port. The impact of a fracking well, or indeed the many hundreds of wells that necessitate such a land-hungry industry, will be felt acutely by our communities. Residents will not be immune to the considerable increase in traffic from HGV movements, the further reduction in air quality, industrialisation of the surrounding countryside, risk of

water and land contamination, and the resulting effects on property prices and local businesses. For councils to remain silent on this matter is no longer acceptable."

A survey of residents' attitudes towards fracking, carried out by FFFH last year, showed 77.7 per cent of residents were opposed to Unconventional Extraction of Gas and Oil (fracking).

The actual resolution approved by the Town Council is: "Without prejudice to Frodsham Town Council Planning Committee, the Council objects to the carrying out of shale gas or coal methane testing or extraction on land within the jurisdiction of Frodsham Town Council until the Town Council is convinced of the safety of the process and that the risk of adverse environmental impacts has been fully addressed."

Council chairman elected to county board

THE chairman of Frodsham Town Council, Cllr Judith Critchley, has been elected to the executive board of the Cheshire Association of Local Councils (CHALC).

She joins two members of neighbouring Helsby Parish Council, Cllr Terry O'Neill and Cllr Stuart Hulse, on the board.

Cllr Mallie Poulton, one of Frodsham's delegates at the annual meeting of CHALC, said: "This is a great achievement for Judith, who is now in her third year as chair of the Town Council, having first taken on that role only a few weeks after being elected unopposed to Frodsham Lakeside Ward. Judith will bring her usual style and expertise to the role at CHALC.

CHALC represents and promotes the interests of local councils in Cheshire through support, information and training.

At the meeting, Frodsham's delegates voted for stronger measures to uphold the councillors Code of Conduct, to support the campaign to re-open the Sandbach to Northwich rail line and to ask Cheshire West and Chester Council to devolve responsibility and funding to local councils to trim growth and keep road signs legible, since overgrown signs are causing road safety concerns in many areas.



Photographic Society members inspired



Paul Grogan, a Manchester photographer, has an intimate and in-depth knowledge of the city centre and presented some of his work to Frodsham, & District Photographic Society.

His images feature a mix of colour and gritty black and white – the latter most striking. He prints on materials from soft textured white gallery quality etching paper to canvas – www.paulgroganphotography.com

His talk inspired Members to enter the Monthly Competition – Monochrome – 95 prints and Projected Digital Images to be judged and one of the highly commended images, was Bill Griffiths' Working Man's Hands, chosen by Liz, which is pictured above.

Members of the public are invited to take advantage of a visit to the Society on one of the evenings in the November Programme. On the 6th November Marianthi Lainas

presents 'Coast Hugger, Island Lover'.

She is a freelance photographer based on the Wirral leaving a stone's throw from the sea. She draws inspiration from those dynamic places at the edges of our lands – shifting sands, dunes and the timelessness of tides. Her work is represented in Galleries from the north of England to the Isle of Lewis – www.marianthilainasphotography.com

In contrast on the 20th Michael Potts talks about 'Filming Wildlife for TV'. Michael has worked for the BBC's Natural History unit as a cameraman for almost 25 years.

All of his work is inspiring but his latest project concentrates on seabirds – absolutely wonderful. Take a peek - www.michaelpottsphotography.com

Any one interested would be very welcome any Monday evening at the Castle Park Art Centre.

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Teacher aims for rowing medal after total knee replacement

A FRODSHAM PE teacher has set his sights on a national indoor rowing medal after recovering from total knee replacement.

Martin Smiddy, a teacher at Helsby High School, took to indoor rowing when a foot injury put paid to the road-running he had enjoyed for many years.

The change in sport suited Martin, who lives in Frodsham with wife Kate, and one of his early competitive successes was a bronze medal in the Welsh Indoor Championships. He even managed to overcome a shoulder injury in 2012 and was quickly back rowing following surgery.

But when he developed knee problems in 2015 Martin, who celebrated his 64th birthday this year, was worried his rowing days could be over.

He said: "My right knee started to ache during rowing and this caused a pain that began to interfere with my job as a PE teacher – something I just wouldn't allow to happen, so

training was put on hold.

"The problem was that I could either lock my leg out but not bend it fully, or, I could bend it fully but not lock it out! I knew I couldn't just stop being active so I had to get some medical advice."

Martin consulted orthopaedic surgeon Nikhil Pradhan at the Spire Hospital at Stretton who, after the knee locked again, discovered the cartilage had disintegrated.

He said: "Through years of wear and tear Martin had literally worn out his cartilage. This meant the knee had also become damaged and, at his age, I felt a total knee replacement was the best option. He is a very fit man and I thought a full replacement would allow him to stay active once he had recovered from the operation."

Martin said: "Everything went really well and after some initial

physio and 'tentative' trips to the rowing machine I launched into full training after about seven months.

"The times I am producing for distances ranging from 100m through to 2000m are good enough to rank me in the top 15 of the UK's over 60s and, over my competition distance of 2000m, I recently achieved a time of 7 mins 27.9 secs which has ranked me 9th

in the UK and 21st in the World!"

Now Martin, who received the MBE for services to local sport and this year celebrated 40 years in teaching, has his sights on the English Indoor Championships to be held in February.

"If I do manage to win a medal I will be dedicating it to Mr Pradhan as a thank you for his excellent work," he said.



Martin preparing for a crack at a National Indoor Rowing medal.

"Friends" group suggested to manage woodland

A FRIENDS of Hob Hey Wood volunteer group would be the best way of achieving the objectives of a five-year management plan for the wood.

This is the view of Frodsham Town Council's environment committee following a discussion on the merits and potential pitfalls of the management plan for the wood.

In fact, the council set up a charity named Friends of Hob Hey Wood in 2003, with the objectives "to preserve and conserve for the quiet and peaceful benefit of the public, the natural woodland areas of Hob Hey Wood."

The council is the sole trustee of the charity which has current funds of £1,386.22.

Committee members expressed concern about the control of volunteers working in the wood, taking into account issues such

as health and safety, training of volunteers and maintaining interest. The group would need to be self-managing without requiring significant input from council staff.

One suggestion was that the money in the original Friends account should be used to provide training for volunteers.

It was agreed to gauge the level of local interest in getting involved in a Friends group by placing laminated notices in the wood and placing an article on the council's website.

The meeting heard that a community woodland trust had successfully managed a woodland at Tarvin for nine years and it was agreed to invite them to attend a future meeting of the committee to share experiences. Alternatively, the committee would be willing to visit Tarvin.

Public can join new committee

MEMBERS of the public will be invited to join Frodsham Town Council's new Events Committee.

The first meeting – chaired by Cllr Mallie Poulton – heard that a local residents, Mrs Pauline Scott, had expressed an interest in joining the committee.

This was welcome and members expressed the hope that other members of the public would join too.

Three day Christmas Tree festival

A THREE-day Christmas Tree Festival is planned at Norley Methodist Church at the beginning of December.

On Friday, December 1 the event will start with a grand "lighting up" ceremony at 6pm and the festival will remain open until 8pm.

The following day, the festival will be open from 11am to 5pm, ending with a "Big Christmas Sing" from 4pm to 5pm.

On the Sunday, there will be a service conducted by the Rev Christine Dutton starting at 10.45am, with the festival open from 12 noon to 4pm when there will be a closing service conducted by the Rev Sue Levitt.

Admission is free throughout the festival and there will be refreshments and programmes available with a request for a donation of £2.

Frodsham – "Gateway to the Sandstone Ridge"

FRODSHAM Town Council could brand itself "The Gateway to the Sandstone Ridge".

The recommendation has come from members of the council's environment committee following a workshop called to discuss the future of the Sandstone Ridge which resulted in a "call to action" to the Town and Parish Councils of the Sandstone Ridge area.

If the recommendation is approved by the full council, Frodsham could use the Sandstone Ridge logo on the council website and other communications.

The environment committee has agreed to invite a representative of the Sandstone Ridge Trust to a future meeting and to add the Trust to the list of organisations featured on the council website.

Councillors Alan Oulton and Caroline Ashton have been nominated as points of contact to liaise with the Trust.

In addition, it will be suggested to Frodsham's Neighbourhood Plan Working Group that the protection and conservation of the natural beauty and special qualities of the Sandstone Ridge should be promoted in the Neighbourhood Plan.

The Sandstone Ridge is one of Cheshire's most prominent features.

Rising from the Cheshire Plain, it stretches from Frodsham to Malpas, covering 230 square kilometres of rolling hills and escarpments, and its popular Sandstone Trail is a major attractions for the thousands of walkers who visit the area.

Reader's Letters

Lifesaver!

Eric Jennings, Frodsham

At the Princeway surgery I have sometimes taken my own blood pressure at the machine to the left of the main door inside, where it told me on several occasions that my pulse rate was very low.

As I always feel fit I thought the machine was faulty, but the doctor checked and found that 33 was dangerously low, so he sent me straight to the hospital where after a week a pacemaker was fitted into my chest.

I can only praise our surgery for having the machine available and thank them – possibly – for saving my life!

Dream comes true for ex-jockey Kimberley

A DREAM came true for a mother-of-two from Frodsham when she rode in the Horse of the Year Show – and came second in the Riding Horse and Hack class.

Former jockey Kimberley Gould was riding her former racehorse Spanish Hidalgo and says he was "foot perfect."

She said: "Riding at the Horse of the Year Show is a dream come true, made even more special by finishing second. He was foot perfect – I couldn't have asked any more from him."

Kimberley is a Frodsham girl. She went to Weaver Vale Primary School, then Helsby High School, before leaving home at 16 to work in racing, riding as an apprentice for racehorse trainer Alan Bailey when he trained at Tarporley.

She then went on to work for a succession of well-known trainers, Peter Harris, Nick Littmoden and then John Dunlop, where she met her husband, Daniel, who also worked in racing.

The couple are now back living in Frodsham with their two sons, Tomas, aged six and Oliver aged 15 months.

When she left racing, Kimberley wanted a horse to show and was gifted Spanish Hidalgo by his owner Cristina Patino – owner of the legendary mare Snow Fairy, who won £4m prize money in her career.

She said: "Spanish was a successful racing horse, winning six races including the Italian St Ledger, and more than £64,000 in prize money."

"I have had him eight years now. He hasn't been the easiest of horses to re-school. When I started to work him he was very sharp and spooky and regularly went across the school on two legs bucking!"

"But we slowly started to get things together and he's had great

success, including competing at Hickstead in the ROR (Retraining of Racehorses) final and coming fifth at Royal Windsor just to name a few.

"We qualified for the Horse of the Year Show back in April in the first 'Search for a Star' qualifier which gives amateurs the chance

to compete in the best horse show in the world. Only 10 people could qualify in my class, from only five shows held throughout the country."

A proud Kimberley now plans to give "Spanish" a little rest, but she then hopes to enter him for the Racehorse to Riding Horse qualifiers next year.

"The year after, when he's 15 I would love to qualify him for the veteran finals at Olympia," she said.



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JUMBLE SALE

NORLEY WEDNESDAY CLUB GRAND JUMBLE SALE and White Elephant at the Village Hall, Norley on Wednesday 1st November 2017. 2.3.30pm. 20p including refreshment. All welcome.

(010/17)

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